

## **ABSTRACT**

The present invention provides methods for detecting, diagnosing or prognosticating prostate cancer by measuring the levels of macrophage migration inhibitory factor (MIF) in the serum of an individual. The assay for MIF can be an  
5 immunoassay, such as ELISA, or a nucleic assay, such as Northern blot. Genetic changes within MIF gene can predict patients that express high levels of MIF.